



## **Paratriathlon Athlete Classification Rules**

*The BTF Classification rules are an adoption of the World Triathlon Classification rules with amendments made to suit the National Classification over which they preside. All categories and boundaries remain exactly the same, but there are some amendments to process.*

*For clarification these classification rules relate only to National Classification and any athlete seeking to compete Internationally will have to undergo a further International Classification, supported by British Triathlon and conducted by World Triathlon under the World Triathlon Classification Rules.*

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## **Part One: General Provisions**

### **1 Scope and Application**

#### **Adoption**

- 1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by The British Triathlon Federation (BTF) to reflect the World Triathlon (WT) rules which implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards (Effective as of 1st January 2017).
- 1.2 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.3 These Classification Rules are the Appendix G of the [World Triathlon Competition Rules](#) (which British Triathlon have adopted in full)
- 1.4 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. BTF accesses these forms from WT and can be amended by WT from time to time.

#### **Classification**

- 1.5 The term "Classification" refers to a structure for competition, the aim of which is to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that athletes compete equitably with each other.
- 1.6 The purpose of classification is to minimize the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of competition, so that athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology, and who have enhanced them to best effect.
- 1.7 Classification is undertaken to:
  - 1.7.1 define who is eligible to compete in Para sport and consequently who can reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete;
  - 1.7.2 group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete is ultimately victorious.

#### **Application**

- 1.8 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with BTF and/or participate in any Paratriathlon Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by BTF.
- 1.9 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of BTF including, but not limited to, the BTF Competition Rules. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the IPC Classification Code shall take precedence.
- 1.10 These Classification Rules include provisions related to:
  - 1.10.1 Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard (IS) for Eligible Impairments);
  - 1.10.2 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the IS for Athlete Evaluation);
  - 1.10.3 Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the IS for Protests and Appeals);
  - 1.10.4 Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the International Standard for

- Classifier Personnel and Training);
- 1.10.5 Data Protection (in accordance with the IS for Classification Data Protection).

### **Interpretation and Relationship to Code**

- 1.11 References to an 'Article' means an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' means an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.12 References to a 'sport' in these Classification Rules refer to both a sport and an individual discipline within a sport.
- 1.13 The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by the BTF from time to time.
- 1.14 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.15 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner, that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

### **National Classification**

- 1.16 BTF will only permit an Athlete to compete in National Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.17 BTF will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by BTF). BTF will advise its membership in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).
- 1.18 An athlete will only be permitted to undergo national classification if he or she is registered for one of the following:
- BTF Paratriathlon Event
  - BTF Classification Opportunity
  - BTF (or associated body) Talent Identification Programme

## **2 Roles and Responsibilities**

- 2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

- 2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- 2.2.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.2.2 participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - 2.2.3 ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to World Triathlon;
  - 2.2.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
  - 2.2.5 actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification

research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

#### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.3 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:
  - 2.3.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.3.2 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.3.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems;
  - 2.3.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

#### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
  - 2.4.1 have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.4.2 use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.4.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research;
  - 2.4.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### **Part Two: Classification Personnel**

#### **3 Classification Personnel**

- 3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. BTF will appoint Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for BTF.

#### **Chief Classifiers**

- 3.2 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by BTF in particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by BTF to do the following:
  - 3.2.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend a virtual or Face to Face Evaluation Session;
  - 3.2.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
  - 3.2.3 manage Protests in consultation with the BTF;
- 3.3 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified BTF officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

#### **Classifiers**

- 3.4 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the BTF, or the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

### **Classification Panel**

- 3.5 Classification Panels for each season will be appointed by BTF to determine the eligibility, the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of the athletes competing in that event under BTF Competition Rules.
- 3.6 Classification panels should include a minimum of two classifiers, in which at least one medical classifier must be present.
- 3.7 In exceptional circumstances (such as, but not exclusively, during a global pandemic), a panel may be set up with only one (1) medical classifier. In this case, the athletes can only be allocated a Review sport class status.
- 3.7.1 In such circumstances where only one classifier is present (who must be medical) an additional classifier shall dialled in via secure remote video conferencing. In such circumstances an additional (non-classifying) member of staff shall be in the room to support the classifier as a neutral reference.
- 3.8 BTF may request to have up to two (2) observers for classification procedures. Trainee classifiers will have priority and the presence of observes will depend on the approval by the athletes and BTF.
- 3.9 Two (2) classification panels are required in order to follow the procedure of a submitted protest. The Chief Classifier may be a member of one of the panels.

### **Trainee Classifiers**

- 3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by BTF.
- 3.11 BTF may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.
- 3.12 BTF may nominate WT certified national classifiers as trainees in order to follow the pathway to become international classifiers.

## **4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification**

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by BTF as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 BTF will provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 In accordance with the WT Classifier Education and Certification process, there are 4 level of classifiers:
- National Classifier (NC)
  - Trainee Classifier (CT)
  - Level 1 International Classifier (Senior)
  - Level 2 International Classifier (Senior)
- 4.4 A Classifier must:
- 4.4.1 Have a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
- 4.4.2 Have an understanding of the sport(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport(s);

- 4.4.3 Have an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
  - 4.4.4 Have a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for BTF. These include that Classifiers must either:
    - a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which BTF at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment that have experience in standard muscle power testing procedures and assessment of neurological impairments; ophthalmologist or optometrist for Athletes with a Vision Impairment; or;
    - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the triathlon; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which BTF at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
  - 4.4.5 Submit evidence of their relevant qualification with their CV.
  - 4.4.6 Have experience in the sport or classify nationally for another sport.
- 4.5 BTF has a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process includes:
- 4.5.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
  - 4.5.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
  - 4.5.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
  - 4.5.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.6 BTF may determine certain limitations for a Classifier, including (but not limited to):
- 4.6.1 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
  - 4.6.2 the possibility to lose his/her Classifier Certification if BTF is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
  - 4.6.3 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if BTF is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

## **5 Classifier Code of Conduct**

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in British Triathlon depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. BTF has therefore adopted WT's set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct', which is based on the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 5.2 All classifiers must adhere to the [IPC Classification Code of Ethics](#), in order to:
- 5.2.1 Act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all athletes;
  - 5.2.2 Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes and their support personnel;
  - 5.2.3 Have respect for the BTF Competition Rules;
  - 5.2.4 Have respect for their colleagues;
  - 5.2.5 Understand the consequence of non-compliance with the BTF Competition rules;
  - 5.2.6 Maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection;
  - 5.2.7 Declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest; and
  - 5.2.8 Must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as



Classification Personnel at a competition and avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at competitions where they are acting as classifiers. For example, a classifier must not act as a competition technical official, such as a judge or have any other role with athletes or BTF.

- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to BTF.
- 5.4 If BTF receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, will take disciplinary measures against the reported classifier which can include a temporary suspension from classifier duties or even revoking the classifier's certification.
- 5.5 BTF has the discretion to determine whether a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

### **Part Three: Athlete Evaluation**

#### **6 General Provisions**

- 6.1 BTF has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
  - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
  - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
  - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

#### **7 Eligible Impairment**

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in Paratriathlon governed by BTF must have an underlying Health Condition that has a pathological cause which leads to a permanent Eligible Impairment.
- 7.2 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have to compete in Paratriathlon governed by both BTF and WT. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

#### **Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 7.3 BTF must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is permanent.
- 7.4 So that BTF can be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, BTF will require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Three lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
- 7.5 So that BTF can determine that an athlete has an Eligible Impairment, an Athlete must supply BTF with Medical Diagnostic Information by the following means:
  - 7.5.1 The relevant athlete must submit the Medical Diagnostics Form, for either Visual or Physical Impairment, to BTF upon completing, or before registration for the

- respective event, and no later than 4 weeks prior to the event where classification will be conducted.
- 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in a single, clearly legible vertical oriented PDF format file, written in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.
- 7.6 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with the requested supportive Diagnostic Information. This could include, but should not be limited to:
- 7.6.1 medical letters and reports detailing medical history, results of radiological examinations;
- 7.6.2 other diagnostic tests relevant to the athlete's medical condition;
- 7.6.3 Athletes who have multiple Sclerosis must include an MRI that is not older than a year.
- 7.7 If no Medical Diagnostic Form is submitted for an athlete, the athlete runs the risk of not being classified at the nominated event.
- 7.8 BTF may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with more specific and supportive Diagnostic Information) if BTF, at its sole discretion, considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.9 If BTF requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Panel to do so.
- 7.10 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Panel is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.10.1 An officer of BTF will notify the athlete that Diagnostic Information must be provided. The officer of BTF will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.10.2 The BTF officer will set timelines for the submission of the Medical Diagnosis Information.
- 7.10.3 BTF will establish will an Eligibility Assessment Panel. The Eligibility Assessment Panel must, if practicable, be comprised of the Chief Classifier and at least one other National classifier. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Panel must sign confidentiality undertakings.
- 7.10.4 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Panel. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Panel will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.10.5 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 7.10.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment an officer of BTF will inform the relevant athlete and provide a decision to this effect in writing. The athlete will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Panel for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, BTF will inform the athlete.

- 7.10.7 If the decision is not changed, BTF will issue a final decision to the athlete informing them that they are Not Eligible with a Confirmed Status and that they will not be permitted to complete Athlete evaluation with a classification panel.
- 7.10.8 The Eligibility Assessment Panel may make its decisions by a majority. If the Chief Classifier is part of the Eligibility Assessment Panel, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.11 BTF may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.
- 7.12 If during the process of determining whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment BTF becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances BTF will explain the basis of its designation to the athlete.

## **8 Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 WT has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 8.3 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to the different sport classes and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4 A Classification Panel must assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy BTF that he or she has an eligible impairment.
- 8.5 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.6 An athlete who is allocated a Sports Class NE by a Classification panel is entitled to a second Classification from another Classification panel at the earliest possibility. If the athlete wished to undertake a second classification their Sports Class and Sports class Status will be NE R (Review).

## **9 Sport Class**

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by World Triathlon in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to a sport.
  - 9.1.1 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon must be allocated Sport Class Not

- Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of these Rules.
- 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon must be allocated a Sport Class.
  - 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by World Triathlon (in accordance with Article 22.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2 Appendices One, Two and Three of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

## **10 Classification Not Complete (CNC)**

- 10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation BTF or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Complete (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) will however be recorded for the BTF Classification Master List.
- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Complete (CNC) may not compete in the sport of Paratriathlon.
- 10.4 An athlete's classification will be suspended and will be considered not completed if the process of classification cannot be completed for one of, but not limited to, the following:
  - 10.4.1 A failure on the part of the athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
  - 10.4.2 A failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 10.4.3 Insufficient medical information to give evidence of an athlete's impairment eligibility;
  - 10.4.4 The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 10.4.5 The athlete has a health condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner, for example pain;
  - 10.4.6 If an athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 10.4.7 If in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
  - 10.4.8 The athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner;
  - 10.4.9 The athlete failed to attend one or more components of the classification evaluation;
  - 10.4.10 Force majeure circumstances;

- 10.4.11 Due to illness, injury or another exceptional reason the final part of classification is not able to be completed (this does not preclude it being completed at another time.)
- 10.5 An athlete whose class cannot be completed will not be permitted to compete at that event or until classification has been completed.
- 10.6 If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 10.6.1 An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the athlete will be provided to the athlete
- 10.7 If an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed.
- 10.8 If the athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the athlete must be precluded from competing at any competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed.

## **Part Four: Athlete Evaluation Process and the Classification Panel**

### **11 Athlete Evaluation**

#### **Definition**

- 11.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed by a classification panel for the athlete to be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 11.2 The allocation of a Sport Class must be based on an evaluation by a classification panel of the extent to which the athlete's impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 11.3 A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

### **12 The Classification Panel**

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by BTF to conduct the components of Athlete Evaluation as part of an Evaluation Session.

#### **General Provisions**

- 12.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least of two certified Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances, a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification and the conditions laid out at 3.17 (above).
- 12.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

#### **Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 12.4 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:

- 12.4.1 Confirm the athlete has an eligible impairment type;
  - 12.4.2 Assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for World Triathlon;
  - 12.4.3 Assess the extent to which an Athlete can execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
  - 12.4.4 Conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.5 Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
  - 12.6 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by BTF unless BTF requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
  - 12.7 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

### **13 Pre-competition Evaluation Process**

- 13.1 The Sport Department in conjunction with the Chief Classifier, the Technical Delegate and A BTF Officer will coordinate and develop a classification schedule ensuring that all classifications will take place before the athletes' race briefing (classification takes place at a race event). A period shall be set aside for possible Classification Protests wherever possible.
  - 13.1.1 Where it is not possible to conduct a classification protest at the time of initial classification an opportunity will be provided as soon as is practically possible after this date.
- 13.2 As soon as an athlete registers for an event, BTF will confirm the athletes' class and status based on the BTF Classification Master List. All those with New (N) or Review (R) or Provisional Classification Status (PCS) or those protested shall be assigned a classification appointment. BTF will communicate the classification appointment (venue, assigned times) to the athlete.
- 13.3 An average of sixty (60) minute periods shall be designated for each appointment (with adequate meal times and breaks scheduled for the classifiers).

### **14 Evaluation Responsibilities**

- 14.1 The Athlete is responsible for ensuring that they comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article, support and education can be given from BTF in relation to this where an athlete requests it.

#### **Athlete responsibilities**

- 14.2 Athletes who undergo classification will need to report to the classification panel at their designated time.
- 14.3 Failure to report for classification at the designated time, without reasonable explanation to the chief classifier, will result in the athlete not being classified and not being able to compete at the Paratriathlon event.
- 14.4 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a parent/guardian/coach/friend when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has cognitive/understanding challenges.

- 14.5 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
- 14.6 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by BTF and sign accordingly.
- 14.7 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card or Triathlon England/Triathlon Scotland /Welsh Triathlon license card.
- 14.8 The athlete will have a digital photograph taken during the appointment to accompany their classification. If their classification appointment is completed via Virtual Assessment then they will be asked to submit a digital photograph to accompany their classification documentation.
- 14.9 When requested and although already submitted to BTF, 4 weeks in advance of classification, it will be mandatory for athletes to bring with them to Classification Evaluation, a copy of the BTF Physical Impairment (PI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by their medical doctor, and previously submitted to BTF, or the World Triathlon Visual impairment (VI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by an ophthalmologist.
- 14.10 Failure to provide the required medical documentation during classification may result in the athlete being allocated a status of "CNC" (Classification Not Complete) and not be able to compete in that event.
- 14.11 Athletes must dress appropriately in sports clothes and bring all supportive equipment (prosthesis, orthoses, slings, crutches etc.) to the classification appointment, and their bike, or hand bike and racing wheelchair.
- 14.12 English is the official language for the classification assessments. Athletes must be accompanied by an interpreter (if English is not their first or commonly spoken language). The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete support person.
- 14.13 All athletes must present a true and accurate medical and sporting history and must cooperate fully in the examination process and observation phase of classification. Non-cooperation may lead to sanctions, as explained in Part Seven of these Rules.
- 14.14 An athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the classification panel and be currently taking, at time of classification, all medication that will be used during competition.

#### **Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 14.15 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary for it to allocate a Sport Class.
- 14.16 In addition to any opinion(s) sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete and BTF (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.

## 15 Athlete evaluation process

- 15.1 The Athlete Evaluation process consists of the following:
- 15.1.1 An assessment of whether the athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
  - 15.1.2 An assessment of whether an athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport which involves an assessment and evaluation of the severity of the impairment and the extent to which the athlete can execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;
  - 15.1.3 **Virtual Assessment:** The first stage of the classification appointment for athletes with a physical disability may be conducted via video conferencing software. In this initial stage the classifiers will go through a series of questions with the athlete in order to determine what will need to be looked at in the Physical Assessment. At this stage the classifiers may ask the athlete to submit additional information (such as video footage or additional medical documentation) in advance of the Physical Assessment in order to make most efficient use of this appointment;
    - 15.1.3.1 In some cases it may be possible to conduct the entire classification process in the Virtual Assessment meaning that a further Physical Assessment is not necessary in order to award a sport class;
    - 15.1.3.2 For some athletes the Virtual Assessment will be used to determine if it is suitable for the athlete to attend a Physical Assessment at this time. For example during a Global Pandemic an athlete health risk evaluation will be conducted to ensure that no athletes, classifiers or support personnel would be put at risk by a Face to Face physical assessment taking place;
  - 15.1.4 **Physical Assessment:** The classification panel will conduct a physical assessment of the athlete, to establish whether the athlete's health condition presents as an eligible physical or visual impairment type and meets the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria;
  - 15.1.5 **Technical Assessment:** The Classification Panel will conduct a Technical Assessment of the athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the athlete's physical ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, specific tasks and activities that are part of triathlon;
  - 15.1.6 **Observation in Competition Assessment** may be conducted to ensure that the outcome of the athlete's physical and technical assessments is reflected in the athlete's ability to perform in the competition:
    - 15.1.6.1 The observation in competition period begins upon arrival at the competition venue on race day and until the end of competition;
    - 15.1.6.2 If changes to an Athlete Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition Assessment, the changes are effective immediately. BTF must consider the impact any such changes on results and prizes;
  - 15.1.7 The allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status:
    - 15.1.7.1 A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class or solve athlete evaluation related queries;
    - 15.1.7.2 Video footage, photography or other multimedia material may be utilised by the Classification Panel/s during the evaluation period for all classification purposes connected to the competition. The



evaluation period is from the start of classification assessment to the end of competition and the allocation of Sports Class and Sports Class Status.

## 16 Observation in Competition

- 16.1 Observation in Competition Assessment may be required by a classification panel before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 16.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are explained in section 3.16 of Appendix I.
- 16.3 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the internal Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.

## 17 Remote Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 17.1 If an athlete is attending an event where no classification is offered, he/she may be able to obtain a Provisional Classification Status (PCS) from BTF and will need to provide the required Provisional Classification Form and Medical Diagnosis Form no later than four (4) weeks' prior the competition. If the athlete has a health condition that presents as a permanent eligible impairment type, the athlete will receive a PCS status.
- 17.1.1 Where a Provisional Classification could be granted the athlete may be requested to attend a Virtual Assessment in order to be granted PCS status.
- 17.2 For the athlete to preserve the results and ranking points achieved in the current season, he/she must attend a BTF Classification Opportunity within a year of receiving the PCS sport class status.
- 17.3 An athlete with a Provisional Classification Status will have no protest opportunities.

## 18 Changes in Sport Class before and after First Appearance

### 18.1 Before Competition

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
<p>a) Athlete undergoes classification</p> <p>Athlete changes Sport Class</p>	<p>Chief Classifier notifies Athlete, BTF Officer and Race Referee immediately after change of Sport class identified. Sports Class outcome is posted at the race briefing.</p> <p>Start list is updated from athletes old to new sports class.</p> <p>Bib number is reassigned accordingly by the Race Referee.</p>
<p>b) Athlete undergoes classification</p> <p>Athlete is declared non-eligible (NE) by first assessment panel</p>	<p>Sport Class NE Review status is assigned and athlete is given the opportunity to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd Panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete remains NE Sports class with R sports class status and cannot compete at the event or other events until the protest is resolved. Athlete is removed from the start list. Does not appear on the results.</li> </ul> <p>2nd Panel available:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an athlete is declared NE by second panel, an NE Sports Class becomes a confirmed Sports class Status (C) Athlete cannot compete at the event. Athlete is removed from the start list and does not appear in the results. Athlete must be informed by the classifiers that he/she can register for an associated AG race if there is one and if the timing of races allows for it.</li> <li>• If athlete is eligible, athlete should remain on the start list with the designated sport class allocated by the second panel.</li> </ul>
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## 18.2 After Competition (includes observations during competition)

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
a) Athlete changes Sport Class as a result of observation during First Appearance (in Competition)	<p>Chief Classifier notifies Athlete through final classification results posting and informs Race Referee and BTF Officer.</p> <p>Race Referee decides if the change is applicable for the given event results and notifies Timing so athlete is correctly ranked in new category.</p> <p>Past results/rankings may be revisited.</p>
b) Athlete's Sport Class is protested	<p>Review status is assigned and the athlete is given the chance to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results and sport class stand as they are and a Note should be added in the official results indicating the athlete has been protested and is pending resolution. Athlete is made Review Sport Class Status.</li> </ul> <p>2nd panel available; the following scenarios can occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirms the decision of the first panel, results and sport class stand as they are.</li> <li>• Changes the decision of the 1st panel, the subsequent procedures are described in 18.2 a)</li> <li>• If the athlete is declared non-eligible, Sport Class Status becomes NE-Review. Athlete is shown with no ranking after the DSQ and DNF IRM codes with an NE-R as total time.</li> </ul>
c) Athlete is declared non-eligible (NE) due to observation	<p>If a 2nd panel is available procedure as in 18.2 b) is followed.</p> <p>If a 2nd Panel is not available:</p> <p>The athlete remains NE with R status. The athlete is shown with no ranking after the DSQ and DNF IRM codes with an NE as total time.</p>

## 19 Sport Class Status

- 19.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 19.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel after an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
- Confirmed (C)
  - Review (R)
  - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

### **Sport Class Status New**

- 19.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by BTF prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any national competition, unless BTF specifies otherwise. The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest according to BTF Paratriathlon first appearance (in competition) requirements.
- 19.4 Sports Class Status N includes athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by BTF for entry purposes.

### **Sport Class Status Confirmed**

- 19.5 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable.
- 19.5.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (except in relation to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests, Medical Review and changes to Sport Class criteria).
- 19.5.2 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

### **Sport Class Status Review**

- 19.6 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 19.7 The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest, according to First Appearance requirements. This includes athletes who are protested, but for whom no second panel is available at the competition, or athletes who have been reassessed after protest, but who have not been observed in competition by a second panel (PR).
- 19.8 A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where:
- 19.8.1 Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by BTF and is new to the sport;
- 19.8.2 Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;
- 19.8.3 and/or Athlete has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity;
- 19.8.4 Athlete has had a medical review request approved (MR);
- 19.8.4.1 Athletes with Sport Class NE remain non-eligible with a Review status until a second classification panel is able to examine the athlete (NE-R);
- 19.9 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 19.10 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent national Competition, unless BTF specifies otherwise.

### **Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

- 19.11 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will

not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.

- 19.11.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
- 19.11.2 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date, except if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 19.12 If World Triathlon changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
  - 19.12.1 BTF may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
  - 19.12.2 BTF may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
  - 19.12.3 in both instances, the relevant athlete shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

## **20 Multiple Sport Classes**

- 20.1 This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class.

### **Multiple Eligible Impairments**

- 20.2 An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may be eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:
  - 20.2.1 the Athlete must notify BTF as to their Eligible Impairments and their eligibility to be allocated more than one Sport Class in respect of those Impairment types, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;
  - 20.2.2 the Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple Impairments, either at the relevant Competition or the subsequent Competition;
  - 20.2.3 after the Evaluation Sessions referred to in Article 15.1 the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in (the preferred Sport Class). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance;
  - 20.2.4 the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable BTF Rules and Regulations and;
  - 20.2.5 the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.

### **Changing Sport Class**

- 20.3 An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may request to change his or her preferred Sport Class:
  - 20.31 at the end of the season when the Athlete's first Evaluation Session was completed; or
  - 20.32 after the close of the Paralympic Games, and before the start of the next season thereafter.

- 20.4 A request to change a preferred Sport Class must be sent to the BTF by the Athlete. The application must be submitted to BTF in accordance with the time frame identified under Article 20.3.
- 20.5 Nothing prohibits an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request at any time in respect of any Sport Class.

## **21 Notification**

- 21.1 The Chief Classifier has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of the outcomes of Athlete Evaluation after each of the classification sessions.
- 21.2 Once the Classification Panel has allocated the Sport Class, verbal notification of the athlete's Sports Class is provided to the athlete. If the athlete decides not to sign the form, it is considered that the athlete has been informed in person about the outcome of classification.
- 21.3 A Class Status can only be allocated after the First Appearance has been completed.
- 21.4 The Chief Classifier must liaise with the Race Referee, where relevant, to ensure start lists are updated accordingly after each of the classification sessions.
- 21.5 The completed Classification Evaluation Card will be filed in a protected database and maintained by BTF. Athletes may request from BTF a copy of an athlete's classification evaluation after the competition or classification event.
- 21.6 Official confirmation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status will be sent to each athlete in the form of a Classification Certificate at the conclusion of the classification process.
- 21.7 The BTF Paratriathlon Master List will be updated after each Classification Opportunity.
- 21.8 The Chief Classifier must liaise with the delegated BTF Officer at the conclusion of a Classification Opportunity to ensure that all relevant information is shared with athletes and to that any relevant reviews and requests can be put in place.

## **Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible**

### **22 Sport Class Not Eligible**

#### **General Provisions**

- 22.1 If BTF determines that an Athlete:
- 22.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - 22.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition;
- BTF must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 22.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

#### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 22.3 If BTF determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 22.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - 22.3.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by BTF.

- 22.4 If another Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, BTF may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 22.5 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by BTF or a Classification Panel (if delegated by BTF) will not have the right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport, if that Athlete has:
- 22.5.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
- 22.5.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

### **Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 22.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable:
- 22.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 22.6.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 22.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 22.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 22.9 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of Paratriathlon.

## **Part Six: Misconduct during Evaluation Session**

### **23 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

- 23.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 23.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Classification Opportunity, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 23.3 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be

allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

## **Part Seven: Medical Review**

### **24 Medical Review**

- 24.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 24.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 24.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete (together with a £100.00 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed.
- 24.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by BTF as soon as reasonably practicable and no less than six weeks prior to the next Classification Opportunity.
- 24.5 The Chief Classifier, or representative, must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 24.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes that could improve an athlete's abilities and skills, but fails to draw those to the attention of BTF, may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 24.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 24.8 If the Medical Review Request is denied, the applicant may appeal this decision to the BTF Performance Director.

## **Part Eight: Intentional Misrepresentation**

### **25 Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 25.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 25.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 25.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation:  
25.3.1 A formal report by the involved classification panel together with evidence will be

submitted to BTF who will follow up with the panel to determine the actions to be followed. Please see appendix Four which outlines the full procedure to be followed in cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.

- 25.3.2 If it is an external body from BTF presenting the allegation, a formal report with evidence must be submitted to BTF who will follow up with the relevant Chief Classifier in order to determine the actions to be followed.
  - 25.3.3 In any case, BTF may deem a hearing necessary to be conducted in order to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 25.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
- 25.4.1 Warning to the athlete on the consequences of intentional misrepresentation.
  - 25.4.2 not be allowed to compete at the event in which the athlete presented for classification evaluation.
  - 25.4.3 being allocated a Sport Class of Not Eligible (NE) and Sport Class Status of Fixed Review Date and being suspended for a period ranging from 12 to 48 months should the athlete be found to be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
  - 25.4.4 Publication of their names and suspension period on the BTF Classification Master List.
- 25.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period from four years to life.
- 25.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period from four years to life.
- 25.7 If another Sports Federation in the Paralympic Movement brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by BTF.
- 25.8 Any consequences to be applied to an Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel or Athlete delegation member who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of BTF.
- 25.9 Any disciplinary action taken by BTF pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

## **Part Nine: Protests**

### **26 Scope of a Protest**

- 26.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 26.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).



## **27 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest**

A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

- 27.1 The athlete; or
- 27.2 Athlete Support Personnel; or
- 27.3 BTF.

## **28 Athlete Protests**

- 28.1 An Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel may only make a Protest in Respect of themselves or an athlete they represent at a Competition or Classification Opportunity set aside for Athlete Evaluation, not another athlete.
- 28.2 An Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel may only make a Protest within the set timelines as outlined by BTF:
  - 28.2.1 Before the race:
    - 28.2.1.1 This period starts once the athlete has been informed of their Sport Class;
    - 28.2.1.2 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that Classification Opportunity, shall be the person authorised to receive Classification Protests on behalf of BTF at that event;
    - 28.2.1.3 Classification Protests must be submitted to the Chief Classifier within sixty (60) minutes of the end of the athlete's classification assessment or within sixty (60) minutes after the official publication of the classification results at the athlete's briefing.
  - 28.2.2 During/after the race:
    - 28.2.2.1 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of BTF at that event.
    - 28.2.2.2 The intent to issue a classification protest must be communicated to the Chief Classifier within 5 minutes from the moment the athlete involved in a protest crosses the finish line. Once the intention to protest is initiated, the time limit will be extended by 15 minutes at which time all protest documents need to be submitted.
    - 28.2.2.3 Race results can only become official after this process is completed.
  - 28.2.3 At a Classification Opportunity which is not part of a race:
    - 28.2.3.1 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that Classification Opportunity, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of BTF at that Classification Opportunity.
    - 28.2.3.2 The intent to issue a classification protest must be communicated to the Chief Classifier within 5 minutes from conclusion of the Classification Opportunity. Once the intention to protest is initiated, the time limit will be extended by 15 minutes at which time all protest documents need to be submitted.
- 28.3 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition

Assessment, BTF may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place, the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

## **29 Athlete Protest Procedure**

- 29.1 To submit an Athlete Protest, the Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by BTF at the Classification Opportunity and via the BTF website, and must include the following:
- 29.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
  - 29.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
  - 29.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 29.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
  - 29.1.5 a protest fee of £100.
- 29.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Classification opportunity within the timeframes specified by BTF. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with BTF of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 29.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements, or
  - 29.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements.
- 29.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to BTF as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 29.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 29.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
  - 29.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
  - 29.4.3 BTF must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## **30 British Triathlon Protests**

- 30.1 BTF may, at its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 30.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
  - 30.1.2 another party makes a documented request to BTF. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of BTF.

## **31 British Triathlon Protest Procedure**

- 31.1 If BTF decides to make a Protest, a BTF Officer must advise the relevant Athlete of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

- 31.2 A BTF Officer must provide the relevant Athlete with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which it is justified.
- 31.3 If BTF makes a Protest:
- 31.3.1 the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
- 31.3.2 the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
- 31.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

Athlete Sport Class Status	Protest by Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel		Protest by British Triathlon		Possible Outcome	
	Before	During/ After	Before	During/ After	Before	During/ After
NEW (N)	YES	YES	YES	YES	R/NE	R/C/NE
REVIEW (R)	YES	YES	YES	YES	R/C/NE	R/C/NE
PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION STATUS (PCS)	NO	NO	NO	NO	N	N
REVIEW FIXED DATE (RFD)	NO	NO	YES	YES	R/C/NE	R/C/NE
CONFIRMED (C)	NO	NO	YES*	YES*	R/C/NE	R/C/NE

## 32 Protest Panel

- 32.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of BTF’s obligations if authorised to do so by a BTF Officer
- 32.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 32.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
- 32.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
- 32.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the Athlete or BTF (whichever is relevant).
- 32.4 A BTF Officer must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 32.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 32.6 The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel’s decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.

32.7 The decision of a Protest Panel is final. An Athlete, member of Athlete Support Personnel or BTF may not make another Protest.

### **33 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available**

33.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:

33.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and

33.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## **Part Ten: Appeals**

### **34 Appeal**

34.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

### **35 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal**

35.1 An Appeal may only be made by an Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel

### **36 Appeal Process**

36.1 If an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and therefore an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal;

36.2 No Classification Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sport Class or Sport Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Classification Appeal Body modify a classification decision by allocating a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status to an athlete;

36.3 The Classification Appeal Body shall hear classification appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to classification protest procedures, have been exhausted;

36.4 BTF will form a panel which will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals;

### **Timeline for Appeal Submission**

36.5 Classification appeals may be submitted and commenced no later than 30 days after the classification process took place, by submitting a Notice of Classification Appeal to the BTF Performance Director. BTF shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal to all parties involved.

36.6 Only an Athlete or member of Athlete Support personnel has the right to submit a Notice of Classification Appeal in English by using the BTF Classification Appeal Form.

36.7 A refundable deposit of £150 must accompany all appeals. The deposit will be retained by BTF, if the appeal is denied.

- 36.8 Upon receipt of a Notice of Classification Appeal, BTF shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Classification Appeal. If not, BTF shall issue a written dismissal of the Classification Appeal.

#### **Classification Appeal Procedures**

- 36.9 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, BTF shall:
- 36.9.1 Advise all relevant parties that a Classification Appeal Body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the classification appeal;
  - 36.9.2 Send a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to all parties involved; advise the parties involved that they must, within the 28th day after the Notice of Classification Appeal has been received, submit a list of all documents to the Classification Appeal Body, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the opposing party in relation to the classification appeal;
  - 36.9.3 Set a location for the hearing and date: The Classification Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a hearing; either live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

#### **Classification Appeal Body and Hearing Procedures**

- 36.10 The Classification Appeal Body should include no less than three (3) individuals, who have at no time been involved with, or informed of, the dispute brought before the Classification Appeal Body;
- 36.10.1 The panel will be selected based using the following constituent members:
    - British Triathlon Performance Director (Chair)
    - British Triathlon CEO/Board Member
    - British Paralympic Association Representative/Or classification expert from another sport
    - British Triathlon Lawyer (advisory, non-voting, role)
- 36.11 Classification Appeal Body members will be nominated by the BTF Performance Director (as above 37.11.1); Parties will have the right to recuse an Appeal Body panel member(s) when it may be perceived that he/she has conflict of interest in the issue under dispute or when his/her independence may be compromised. This recuse must be done within the first 24h from the communication of the Appeal Body composition;
- 36.12 BTF may request the British Paralympic Association the formation of an Appeal Body to deal with a specific appeal;
- 36.13 The Classification Appeal Body may designate Counsel to assist it in the hearing;
- 36.14 BTF and the Athlete shall have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Classification Appeal Body;
- 36.15 Not more than two representatives of any party, excluding any interpreter, shall be entitled to participate in the hearing;
- 36.16 Subject to the Classification Appeal Body's discretion, each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and to call witnesses.

### **Classification Appeal Decision**

- 36.17 The Classification Appeal Body shall issue a written decision resolving any classification appeal after the hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties;
- 36.18 The Classification Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision that has been appealed against or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the Classification Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to the decision in a manner consistent with Classification Appeal Body's instructions;
- 36.19 BTF shall be responsible for ensuring that the Classification Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner;
- 36.20 Classification appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further classification appeal with BTF

### **Confidentiality**

- 36.21 Classification Appeal Proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Classification Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the classification appeal:
- 36.21.1 Employees or agents of a party;
  - 36.21.2 Witnesses whose testimony may be offered during the classification appeal;
  - 36.21.3 Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the classification appeal.
- 36.22 At this sole discretion, the Classification Appeal Body may require all persons who attend a hearing to sign a confidentiality agreement. Any individual refusing to sign said agreement may be excluded from the hearing.

## **Part Eleven: Use of Athlete Information**

### **37 Classification Data**

- 37.1 BTF may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 37.1.1 BTF shall be able to share data collected for National Classification with World Triathlon for the purposes of International Classification.
- 37.2 All Classification Data Processed by BTF must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **38 Consent and Processing**

- 38.1 Subject to Article 38, BTF may only process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 38.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 38.3 BTF may only process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

38.4 All electronic classification data shall be stored in a secure system and parties accessing classification data will be required to sign to consent that any such data is only for their use and will only be accessed for the purposes outlined in Articles 38-45 of these rules.

### **39 Classification Research**

39.1 BTF may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.

39.2 The use by BTF of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.

39.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to BTF solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

39.4 BTF may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If BTF wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

### **40 Notification to Athletes**

40.1 BTF must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

40.1.1 that fact that BTF is collecting the Classification Data; and

40.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and

40.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

### **41 Classification Data Security**

41.1 BTF must:

41.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and

41.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

### **42 Disclosures of Classification Data**

42.1 BTF must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.

42.2 BTF may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

### **43 Retaining Classification Data**

43.1 BTF will only retain Classification data for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised 1 year after the data is considered not necessary.

43.2 BTF Classifiers and Classification Personnel will retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

#### **44 Access Rights to Classification Data**

- 44.1 Athletes may request from BTF:
  - 44.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that BTF & World Triathlon processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 44.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by BTF; and/or
  - 44.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by BTF.
- 44.2 A request may be made by an Athlete, or guardian of the Athlete is under 18 years of age, and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

#### **45 Classification Master List**

- 45.1 BTF must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter National Competitions.
- 45.2 BTF must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant bodies on the BTF website.
- 45.3 The BTF Classification Master List will be available on the BTF website.



## Part Twelve: Glossary

**Adaptive Equipment:** Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

**Appeals:** The means by which a complaint that BTF has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by World Triathlon) or national level (as defined by BTF).

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

**BTF Officer:** A relevant member of British Triathlon (including Triathlon England/Welsh Triathlon/Triathlon Scotland) staff who has a responsibility for the organisation of the Classification Opportunity.

**Chief Classifier:** A classifier appointed by World Triathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Federation and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with classification.

**Classification Intelligence:** Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list made available by BTF that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of the classification system.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by BTF to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel:** Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

**Classification Rules:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by BTF from World Triathlon in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by World Triathlon and adopted by BTF to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Paratriathlon.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by BTF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which BTF must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities that World Triathlon deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by World Triathlon.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by BTF.

**Classification Opportunity:** any occasion when classification is offered by British Triathlon; this may be at a race, a talent identification event or on an occasion set up purely for classification.

**Code:** The IPC Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance:** The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

**Continuing Education:** The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by World Triathlon/BTF to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables BTF to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Paratriathlon, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

**Eligibility Assessment Panel:** An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by BTF relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by BTF to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Evaluation Session:** the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A single race, match, game or singular sport contest.

**Face to Face:** a classification appointment which is conducted in person where classifiers, athlete(s) and associated support personnel are in the same room

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session, except if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**Impairment:** A Physical or Vision Impairment.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Federation as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Paratriathlon and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

**International Standards:** A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**Maintaining Certification:** The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**Major Competition Organiser:** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that a National Federation must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Review:** The process by which BTF identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by a National Federation for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**Models of Best Practice:** An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

**National Competitions:** A Competition where BTF or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**National Laws:** The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

**National Protest:** A Protest made by a National Federation or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

**Non-Competition Venue:** Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by BTF as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

**Observation in Competition:** The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

**Physical Impairment:** an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

**Protest Documents:** The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by BTF payable by an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel when submitting a Protest.

**Protest Form:** The form on which a Protest must be submitted.

**Protest:** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Re-certification:** The process by which BTF must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Competition:** a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by World Triathlon/BTF.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

**Signatories:** Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by World Triathlon by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

**Sport Class Status:** A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

**Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA):** a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

**Underlying Health Condition:** a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

**Virtual Assessment:** a classification appointment, or part of an appointment, conducted remotely over video conferencing software.

**Vision Impairment:** an Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete.

## Appendix One: Athletes with Physical Impairment

### 1 Impairment Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the sport of Paratriathlon:

- 1.1 Athlete must present with one of the Eligible Impairments listed below in Table 1 and this must be permanent and;
- 1.2 The impairment must result from a health condition that is pathological and documented by medical records (trauma, disease, dysgenesis).

**TABLE 1**

Impairment Type	Examples of Health Conditions that may cause such impairment
<p><b>Impaired Muscle Power</b> Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
<p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b> Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyriposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.
<p><b>Limb Deficiency</b> Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints because of trauma.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).
<p><b>Hypertonia</b> Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
<p><b>Ataxia</b> Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
<p><b>Athetosis</b> Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

### 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

#### Athlete Evaluation Process

- 2.1 The athlete evaluation process for the WT Paratriathlon Classification System, as adopted by BTF, has been developed with the clear purpose to minimize the impact that impairments have on the outcome of competition through the activity of Paratriathlon.

- 2.2 To evaluate the level of impact eligible impairments have on the performance in Paratriathlon, classifiers assess body functions through:
  - 2.2.1 physical assessment (muscle power or neurological assessment) and;
  - 2.2.2 technical assessment (functional abilities profile).
- 2.3 These processes will determine whether an athlete meets the Minimal Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Paratriathlon.
- 2.4 The Paratriathlon classification system uses a point system and a weighing factor for classification of athletes with a physical impairment for each discipline of the sport (swimming, cycling and running). The total score determines the athlete's sport class.

**The MIC for the Physical Impairment Sports Classes (PTS and PTWC)**

- 2.5 PTS2-PTS5 (Ambulant Athletes): The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the ambulant assessment and a full score in the ambulant Functional Abilities Profile (FAP). This is a value of 1280. The score of 1212 represents the minimal impairment criteria (MIC) in Paratriathlon for all physical impairments from PTS2 to PTS5 sport classes, which is equivalent to an athlete with the complete loss of a hand or throughout the wrist amputation. All athletes with impairments from the ambulant classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.
- 2.6 PTWC1-PTWC2 (Wheelchair users): The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the wheelchair medical assessment and a full score in the wheelchair Functional Athlete Profile (FAP). This is a value of 667.15. The score of 640.0 represents the minimal impairment criteria in paratriathlon for all physical impairments that fall under the PTWC sport class which is equivalent to a high unilateral amputee with no prosthetic use capacity in competition. All athletes with impairments from the wheelchair classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.

**3 Assessment Methodology**

**Physical Assessment: muscle Power and Neurological Screening**

- 3.1 Muscle Power assessment is based on the Daniels and Worthingham (D&W) scale published in 2014, version 9. The scale has 6 levels from 0-5. Plus, or minus grades can't be recorded. That is, an athlete will score a 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, not a 2.5 or 3.5 for example.
- 3.2 The athlete is passively taken through the anatomical range of the key movement to assess the available range of movement (ROM). The athlete then actively moves through their available range against gravity and subsequently with resistance provided through the available range by the assessor or with gravity eliminated to identify the muscle power level.
- 3.3 The overall values for each muscle group are factored according to the relevance of each of the three disciplines (Swim, Bike and Run – different values for the ambulant and wheelchair classes). Ultimately, the overall Swim, Bike and Run scores are weighed against proportionate mean values from each of the segments in Sprint distance triathlon;
- 3.4 Full Range of Movement (ROM) is measured as full available ROM;
- 3.5 Anatomical range is identified for all key movements. E.g. Neck Flexion: 0-40;

- 3.6 Muscle Testing (Power scale):
- 0 Total lack of voluntary contraction
  - 1 Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker)
  - 2 Contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated (poor)
  - 3 Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity
  - 4 Contraction with full range movement against gravity and some resistance (good)
  - 5 Contraction normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance
- (Daniels and Worthingham 2014)

3.7 The Muscle Power testing accounts for 70% of the total athlete’s total assessment score;

**Athletes with Neurological Impairments**

3.8 All athletes with an underlying health condition which presents as an eligible neurological impairment type such as Ataxia, Athetosis or Hypertonia, will undergo a neurological impairment screen assessment to ensure there are clear signs of such impairment(s).

3.9 Athletes with Multiple Sclerosis:

- 3.9.1 In advance to the competition, these athletes should submit Electromyograms and/or MRI that show a permanent loss of power during activity.
- 3.9.2 If possible, videos of the athlete swimming and running, taken from the back (legs and upper torso) and more important, from the side. Videos of 6-10 seconds duration are to be sent to BTF, at time of submitting the athlete’s medical diagnosis form within the timelines as outlined in Article 7.5 and 7.6.

3.10 Neurological Impairment Screen

3.10.1 There are a set of tests to verify the presence of Hypertonia, Ataxia or Ataxia as impairment types.

3.11 Technical Assessment for Physical Impairments

- 3.11.1 Athletes will be questioned on and may be requested to perform sport specific and novel tests as part of the technical assessment. This is called the "Functional Abilities Profile" (FAP) assessment. Testing protocols have been identified through current research;
- 3.11.2 The Technical Tests account for 30% of the athlete’s total score.

**FAP–technical assessment (PTS2-PTS5)**

3.12 Each of the 16 Tests are factored weighed using a scale of values 1-3. Total scores in each of the segments are weighed against proportionate mean values from each of the segments in Sprint distance triathlon;

**Swim**

1	Both arms or residual limb able to move through a functional range of motion	2
2	Both arms or residual limb able to move with continuous arm action	2
3	Able to catch water with a partial or full hand on both sides	2
4	Able to kick with both legs or residual below the knee limb(s)	1
5	Able to swim in prone/freestyle position	2

**Bike**

6	Able to cycle with a symmetrical body position with a cadence at 70-90rpm	2
7	Athlete does not have significant loss of power on any lower limb when pedalling	3
8	Able to have a grip with both hands on the handlebar	1



9	Able to use the aerobars or have the potential to do so	1
10	Athlete does not require a bike adaptation to safely complete the bike segment	1

#### Run

11	Able to run without the use of World Triathlon approved lower-limb assistive devices	3
12	Able to maintain a symmetrical running stride (also in length)	2
13	Able to run with a symmetrical body position	1
14	Able to perform a counter movement jump	2

#### Transition

15	Able to exit the water without assistance of water exit handlers	1
16	Athlete does not need to change a prosthetic leg in pre-transition and/or transition(s)	2

### FAP–technical assessment (PTWC1-PTWC2)

#### 3.13 There are 12 tests with no factoring nor weighting

1	Able to stand unaided & unsupported without the use of World Triathlon approved assistive devices	
2	When standing, able to shift weight from one leg to another to the front and side, with or without the use of World Triathlon approved	
3	Are you able to walk in transition without the use of World Triathlon approved assistive devices	
4	Able to maintain a streamlined, horizontal body position in the swim without an World Triathlon approved supportive device (braces)	
5	Able to move both arms through a functional swimming ROM with continuous arm action with full or residual limb	
6	Able to catch the water with both hands in the swim.	
7	Able to rotate trunk to breath to at least one side	
8	Able to initiate a propulsive kick with one or two legs	
9	Able to complete transition transfers without assistance	
10	Able to handbike without the use of straps around the trunk	
11	Able to maintain a trunk to thigh position throughout the propulsive phase in a racing wheelchair	
12	Able to sit unsupported in the racing wheelchair	

#### 3.14 Observation in Competition - Protocol

- 3.15 The purpose of observation in competition is to ratify the outcome obtained by the classification panel following medical and technical classification assessment and ensure that impairment severity is reflected in the athlete's ability to carry out the activities of triathlon.
- 3.16 Key points to consider during Observation in Competition Assessment may include one or more of the test outlined in articles 13.2 and 13.3.
- 3.17 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 3.18 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
- 3.19 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes after classification assessment.

- 3.19.1 If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and there is a second evaluation conducted where it is determined that the athlete is still required to undergo Observation in Competition, this observation must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).
- 3.19.2 To reduce the impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results; observation in competition should be avoided by ensuring any doubts around athlete presentation in activity is resolved before competition by introducing extra assessments and other novel tests during the classification assessment. Classifiers must exhaust all options to get the best understanding of the athlete’s activity limitation during the classification assessment.

#### 4 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class

##### 4.1 Paratriathlon Scoring system:

The Paratriathlon points scoring system is used to define the Minimal Impairment Criteria for Paratriathlon;

PTS5 is the least impaired ambulant class and an athlete must be below 1212 points to be Eligible into the ambulant Paratriathlon classes and to define each of the ambulant sports classes PTS4-PTS2 and the Wheelchair classes PTWC1and PTWC2.

PTS5	This class includes athletes with a mild degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with below the elbow dysmelia, clubfoot, through the wrist amputation, mild spastic cerebral palsy, partial brachial-plexus on one arm, through the ankle amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices	From 1092,0 to 1211,9 points included
PTS4	This class includes athletes with a moderate degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include a moderate spastic cerebral palsy, complete brachial-plexus on one arm, through the shoulder amputation, unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	From 980,0 to 1091,9 points included
PTS3	This class includes athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with significant spastic hemiplegia, cerebral palsy, double below knee amputation, combined affected upper and lower limbs such as loss of muscle power in an arm and a unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	From 910,0 to 979,9 points
PTS2	This class includes athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis,	Max 909,9 points

	impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include severe cerebral palsy, congenital hemiplegia, above the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	
PTWC2	Athletes must use a recumbent handcycle on the bike segment and a racing wheelchair on the run segment; this class includes athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency and spinal cord injuries such as unilateral above the knee amputation, partial paraplegia, etc.	Max 640 points
PTWC1	Athletes must use a recumbent hand bike on the bike segment and a racing wheelchair on the run segment. This class includes athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency such as double above the knee amputees, unilateral high level above the knee amputation, severe spinal cord injuries resulting in quadriplegia or paraplegia, etc.	463 Raw Muscle Power score

#### 4.2 PTWC1 and PTWC2 Sport Class Allocation:

1. Once the Medical and Technical Assessments have been completed, classifiers should have a better picture of the athlete's functionality.
2. Classifiers should look at the RAW MP score in cell S18. The baseline reference score is 463 but when the athlete is scoring between 455 and 470 points, careful considerations should be followed.
3. Scores in the Hip and Trunk Flexion and Extension can also be checked in the chart under the RAW MP score.
4. The main premise is that for athletes who are scoring at least 3s in one or more of the hip values (mainly extensors and flexors), the trunk values should also be 3 or more.
5. If there are Hip scores, especially Extension that are 3 or more, and some trunk values are also 3 or more AND the score is over 463, the athlete clearly scores into the PTWC2 class.
6. If there are Hip scores that are a maximum score of 2, and trunk scores are also 3 or more, the raw MP score must be checked to see if it is at least 463 or not. The additional tests for trunk functionality must be checked on the athlete (please see protocols below).
7. If Hip scores are very low, 0 or max 1, regardless of what the trunk scores are, it is very unlikely the athlete will be over 463 points in raw score, and athlete should fall into the PTWC1 class.
8. In general, for cases that require further analysis, the athlete must perform the specific functional test described below:
  - A) Modified Functional Reach Test (for individuals who cannot stand)
    - Sitting in a chair Hips, knees and ankles positioned are at 90 degree of flexion, with feet positioned flat on the floor.
    - The initial reach is tested with the patient sitting against the back of the chair with the upper-extremity flexed to 90 degrees.
    - Consists of three conditions over three trials.

- Sitting and stabilized, athlete should reach as far as possible leaning forward and return to initial position.
- Sitting and stabilized, lean right with right arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
- Sitting and stabilized, lean left with left arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
- Instructions should include leaning as far as possible in each direction without rotation and without bracing in any way on the bench/chair.

## Appendix Two

### Athletes with Vision Impairment

#### 1 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Vision Impairment</b> Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

#### 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1 Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's corrected vision. (The difference in approach for Athletes with vision Impairment must be seen within the historical context of Classification for these Athletes, which is an assessment with 'best correction' as used in the context of medical diagnostics for visual acuity.)
- 2.2 To be eligible to compete in BTF & WT Paratriathlon the athlete must meet both criteria below:
- 2.2.1 The athlete must have at least one of the following impairments:
- Impairment of eye structure;
  - Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways
  - Impairment of the visual cortex
- 2.2.2 The athlete's Vision Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 40 degrees diameter.
- 2.3 It is the Athlete's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of their impairment. This must be done by way of submitting the VI Medical Diagnostic form completed by an ophthalmologist and submitted to BTF, with all the requested supplementary medical information, by 4 weeks prior to the Classification Opportunity.

#### 3 Assessment Methodology

- 3.1 All athlete evaluation and Sports class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with the best visual acuity when wearing the best optical correction.
- 3.2 Depending on the Athletes visual acuity, visual acuity is tested using the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing with Illiterate "E" and/or the Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test.
- 3.3 Athletes who compete using corrective devices (glasses, lenses) must attend the evaluation session with these devices and prescription.
- 3.4 Athletes must declare any changes in their optical correction to BTF before any competition. If the athlete is a Sports class Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed the athletes sports class status will be made review and undergo evaluation at the next opportunity.
- 3.5 No observation assessment is required as part of the evaluation process.
- 3.6 The complete reference of the assessment methodology used through the BPA's IBSA system can be found [here](#).

#### 4 Sports Classes

##### 4.1 There are three visual impairment Sports classes for Paratriathlon

PTVI3	<p>Partial Visual Impairment: <b>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees. This criteria is also the MIC criteria for the Visual Impairment classes.</b></p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.</p>
PTVI2	<p>Partial Visual Impairment: <b>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees;</b></p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.</p>
PTVI1	<p>Total Visual Impairment: <b>No light perception. Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60</b></p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.</p>

## Appendix Three

### 1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular and respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

### 2 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

- 2.1 A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above Appendices One and Two) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.
- 2.2 Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do not lead to an Eligible Impairment.
- 2.3 Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
- 2.4 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.
- 2.5 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.
- 2.6 Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.

## **Appendix Four: Intentional Misrepresentation Procedure for the British Triathlon Federation**

### **Introduction**

The British Triathlon Federation (BTF) has adopted this document which was developed by the British Paralympic Association (BPA), with the support of UK Sport's Sport Integrity. Its purpose is to establish a procedure to be used by UK NGBs (in this case BTF) when managing reports of Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **Intentional Misrepresentation**

Article 5 of the [UK Athlete Classification Code](#) states:

Intentional Misrepresentation is when an athlete or athlete support personnel:

- attempts to deceive the classification panel during classification evaluation;
- deliberately presents at classification evaluation in a way that is inconsistent with how they present for competition;
- fails to make a medical notification as to a change in circumstances that will or may affect a Sport Class; and/or
- knowingly assists, covers up or disrupts the evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel.

Under Articles 6.6 and 6.7 of the [IPC Athlete Classification Code](#), an athlete or athlete support personnel who is found to have been intentionally misrepresenting can be banned from Paralympic sport for up to 48 months for a first offence. A second offence carries a maximum sanction of a lifetime ban from Paralympic sport. The severity of these sanctions reflects the seriousness of the charge of Intentional Misrepresentation.

The UK Athlete Classification Code views Intentional Misrepresentation as one of the biggest risks to the integrity of Paralympic sport.

The BPA and BTF recognise, respect and enforce any ban imposed on an athlete or athlete support personnel for Intentional Misrepresentation by a signatory to the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

### **Procedure for managing a report of Intentional Misrepresentation**

The below procedure outlines the approach that BTF will take if they receive a report of Intentional Misrepresentation concerning an athlete and/or athlete support personnel under its jurisdiction.

The Officer of BTF in charge of Classification will lead this procedure and make clear to all athletes and athlete support personnel who that person is and how to contact them; a confidential log will be maintained of all Intentional Misrepresentation reports received by BTF.

**In every case and without exception, outcomes of international classification supersede outcomes of national classification.**

If the report relates to Intentional Misrepresentation that calls into question the validity of an athlete's international sport class, the report should be forwarded to World Triathlon (TRI) with the consent of the individual raising the report. If the individual raising the report does not give their consent the information should be shared with WT but with the individual's identifying and contact details redacted. BTF will cooperate fully with any follow-up actions taken by TRI.



If the report relates to Intentional Misrepresentation that calls into question the validity of an athlete's national sport class, BTF will follow these 7 steps:

1. Review the content of the report that has been made
  - 1.1 Is the source from inside the sport, outside of the sport or anonymous?
  - 1.2 Did the source witness the incident first hand?
  - 1.3 Does the content of the report sound likely?
  - 1.4 Does the content of the report supplement information already received?
  - 1.5 Is the content of the report relevant to Intentional Misrepresentation?

If there is sufficient weight to the report following the review, proceed to step 2. If there is insufficient weight to the report following the review, BTF will log and securely store the report for cross referencing with future reports.

**At all stages of the process (including review of information, initiating disciplinary proceedings and at a hearing panel) the onus is on BTF to prove beyond a mere balance of probability that an individual has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.**

2. Access and review all paperwork held by BTF of the athlete referenced in the report. This paperwork can include medical diagnostic information, physio reports and national classification evaluation of the athlete.
  - a. Does the existing paperwork address all concerns raised in the report?

If yes, BTF will log the report as concluded along with an explanation of that conclusion. If no BTF will proceed to step 3.

3. In confidence, share report, all paperwork and existing concerns with the national classifier(s) that most recently evaluated the athlete, asking them to respond to the concerns.
  - 3.1 Can the classifier(s) answer concerns raised in the report?

If yes, proceed to step 4.2. If no, proceed to step 4.2

4. Summarise the actions taken to date and in confidence share with BTF's CEO/legal team/disciplinary committee, along with the initial report and supporting documentation and either
  - 4.1 Recommend initiating disciplinary proceedings against an athlete and/or athlete support personnel; or
  - 4.2 Recommend logging and securely retaining this information for cross referencing with future reports.
5. If 4.1 is being pursued, usual BTF disciplinary procedures apply, including issuing a Notice of Charge, athletes'/athlete support personnel's right to a hearing panel and right to appeal that hearing panel's decision to an appropriate appellant body such as Sport Resolutions
6. BTF will maintain a log of all received reports of Intentional Misrepresentation and follow-up actions taken by BTF. This log should be reviewed at least once per year by BTF's CEO/legal team/disciplinary committee.

7. The individual raising the report should be updated on the outcome.

**At all times, the welfare of the individual(s) making the report as well as the individual(s) implicated in the report must be considered. BTF will consider offering an appropriate person to support each of the parties impacted by the report being raised. BTF's Whistleblowing and Confidential Disclosure Policy should be followed.**

**Ongoing, unsubstantiated claims of Intentional Misrepresentation can be considered bullying or harassment. In this case BTF will follow on to the Unacceptable Behaviour policy.**